

# READING

## Part 1

Read the text and complete the tasks that follow. Choose a, b, or c. Put a circle round the most appropriate answer. An example is done for you.

### Edward Scissorhands: A Film About Difference

Once upon a time, an inventor lived in an old castle isolated on top of a hill. He created many ingenious devices and, one day, he decided to create a man whom he called Edward. The good-natured scientist took care of Edward like he was his own son, but he was old and died before he could complete him. Left all alone with scissors instead of human hands, Edward remains in the castle until he is befriended by Peg, a woman from the neighbouring town, who feels pity on account of his loneliness and decides to bring him to her home.

Edward's difference quickly becomes an obstacle which prevents him from being fully accepted as a member of society. Soon, the unsuspecting Edward becomes the focus of much gossip and awakens either curiosity, hilarity, anger or fear amongst the whole neighbourhood. Also, his innocence and good nature make him an easy victim for the unscrupulous. His artistic talent is exploited by all. And as he falls in love with Peg's daughter, she abuses his kindness and tricks him into helping her and her boyfriend burglarize a house. His initial naivety is replaced by feelings of frustration, rejection and revolt at people's ways. Edward also comes to realise that he can be dangerous to others; that he is unable to even touch others without accidentally harming them because of the sharpness of the blades he has instead of hands. Soon, false rumours start spreading. People begin to fear him and wish him away.

This is a wonderful tale about love and kindness, but also about rejection and estrangement. It shows the limits of people's tolerance for what is different from them and how strangers - those who stray from the norm - awaken mockery or fear in a society which will use them and ultimately reject them. Though a harsh satire of people's vices, as well as a tragic witness to the pain and frustration linked to being unable to be accepted by others, the tone of this movie is still infused with an ever constant sweetness, gentleness and innocence.

The acting is impeccable. Depp's performance as Edward is truly touching. The characters show humanity at both its best and its least pleasant. The photography is beautiful and is based on the contrast between Edward's universe, the dark noiseless castle, and the town, filled with bright colours and voices. The apparently gloomy castle is in fact a shelter from the seemingly happy outside world which is, in fact, much darker and more sinister underneath its bright colours.

**Example:** The inventor

- a) thought he would profit from Edward.
- b) cared for Edward.**
- c) created Edward accidentally.

Total: 6 marks

1. Peg
  - a) was afraid of Edward at first.
  - b) was the wife of the inventor.**
  - c) thought Edward shouldn't stay alone.
2. How is Edward's character described?
  - a) He has difficulty getting along with others.
  - b) He tends to be dishonest.**
  - c) He is good-hearted.
3. What is something that Edward discovers during the film?
  - a) Most people are basically kind.
  - b) He can be accepted because of his art.**
  - c) He can harm people by mistake if he is not careful.
4. The film could best be described as
  - a) always keeping a sense of innocence.
  - b) representing human kindness.**
  - c) focused on the frustration of not being accepted.
5. The images of the castle
  - a) match up with the images of the town.
  - b) contrast with the images of the town.**
  - c) are not as powerful as the images of the town.
6. What is the reviewer's overall opinion about the film?
  - a) It is exceptional.
  - b) It is alright.**
  - c) It is mediocre.